

OFFICE OF THE FAMILY
AND CHILDREN'S OMBUDS



DCYF
Placement Exceptions

2024
Report

OFCO tracks the Department of Children, Youth, and Families' (DCYF) use of hotels, Department offices, leased facilities, and/or night-to-night foster care placements as emergency placements for children under DCYF care. These are also referred to as "placement exceptions."

The source of this data is notifications from DCYF's Administrative Incident Reporting System (AIRS).

The OFCO 2023 reporting year runs September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024. This data summarizes placement exceptions during this period.

www.ofco.wa.gov

Last updated October 10, 2023

Placement Exceptions	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Annual Total
2024 Reporting Year	394												394
Hotel	60												60
Office	0												0
Night-to-Night	80												80
Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	254												254
Unknown	0												0
2023 Reporting Year	296	378	356	381	411	220	468	452	469	477	369	293	4570
2022 Reporting Year	298	353	213	254	394	334	436	406	547	487	529	431	4682
2021 Reporting Year	183	233	171	142	165	186	183	151	194	260	352	315	2535

Placement Exceptions by DCYF Region*	Count	Percent
Region 1	1	0.3%
Region 2	0	0.0%
Region 3	5	1.3%
Region 4	189	48.0%
Region 5	21	5.3%
Region 6	178	45.2%

*For a map of DCYF Regions, see https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/COMM_0008.pdf

Number of Placement Exceptions per Child	Count	Percent
Only 1 night	14	26.4%
2 to 5 nights	19	35.8%
6 to 9 nights	5	9.4%
10 to 19 nights	10	18.9%
20 or more nights	5	9.4%

Child Gender/Sex***	Count	Percent
Female	17	32.1%
Male	34	64.2%
Transgender Female	1	1.9%
Transgender Male	0	0.0%
Other	1	1.9%

*** While DCYF documents the reported pronouns and gender identity of the child, some children may not feel comfortable sharing this information.

Number of Children Over This Period Who Have Experienced At Least One Placement Exception	
Region 1	1
Region 2	0
Region 3	5
Region 4	12
Region 5	4
Region 6	31
Total	53

Child Age	Count	Percent	Percent of Children in State Care**
0-4 years	5	9.4%	47.8%
5-9 years	12	22.6%	22.9%
10-14 years	19	35.8%	19.1%
15-17 years	17	32.1%	10.2%

** Department of Children, Youth, and Families. *Number and Percent of Children/Youth Who Experienced Out-of-Home Care, by Age, SFY 2022* . <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/oiaa/agency-performance/cw?page=1>

Child Race and Ethnicity	Count	Percent	Percent of Children in State Care****
African American/Black	6	11.3%	16.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	4	7.5%	18.0%
Asian or Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	1.9%	1.0%
Caucasian/White	28	52.8%	46.0%
Multi-Racial	12	22.6%	2.0%
Unknown	2	3.8%	--
Hispanic	7	13.2%	16.0%

**** Department of Children, Youth, and Families. *Children in Care by Race/Ethnicity, Last Day of SFY 2016-2022*. <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/oiaa/agency-performance/cw?page=1>

Placement Exceptions by Region and Type					
September					
	Hotel	Office	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Region Total
Region 1	1				1
Region 2					0
Region 3	2		3		5
Region 4			17	172	189
Region 5	1		20		21
Region 6	56		40	82	178
Type Total	60	0	80	254	394

Number of Placement Exceptions per Child by Region, Length of Stay, and Type															
September															
Only 1 night				2 to 5 nights			6 to 9 nights			10 to 19 nights			20 or more nights		
	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing	Hotel	Night-to-Night	Leased Facility/Region Transitional Housing
Region 1	1														
Region 2															
Region 3	2	3													
Region 4		2	2			1					1	4			4
Region 5	1	1			3						1				
Region 6	2	5	2	1	9	3	1	1	3	3		3			